



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS  
Fourth Session**

*Thiruvananthapuram, India, 21 - 25 January 2019*

**MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION  
AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

**A. 40<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC40)**

**MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

**Standards and Related Texts adopted by the Commission<sup>1</sup>**

1. CAC40 adopted draft standards for cumin, and dried thyme (at Step 8) and the proposed draft standard for black, white and green (BWG) pepper (at Step 5/8 BWG).

**Proposals for New work<sup>2</sup>**

2. CAC40 approved the seven project documents for new work and endorsed the recommendations of CCEXEC73, and specifically:

- i. supported developing group standards for spices and culinary herbs based on plants parts with a view to optimizing the use of resources and expediting the Committee's work;
- ii. agreed that, in developing group standards, CCSC should follow a phased approach including the prioritization of groups and the prioritization of work on standards for individual commodities belonging to the same group prior to developing of a group standard; and
- iii. recommended establishing mechanisms, such as a PWG or in-session WG, to consider written comments and facilitate discussion of consolidated drafts.

**Extension of target year for completion of work<sup>3</sup>**

3. CAC40 endorsed the proposals of CCEXEC73 to amend the target year for completion of work on the development of the standard for oregano to 2019.

**B. OTHER CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

**MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

**38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS38)<sup>4</sup>**

4. CCMAS38 agreed to remind committees that when methods were submitted to CCMAS for endorsement, these methods should indicate the principle as well as proposed typing for the methods.

**44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL44)<sup>5</sup>**

5. CCFL44 agreed to inform commodity committees of CCFL's ongoing work on guidance for the labelling of non-retail containers so that they were aware that the current standardized provisions might need to be adjusted or removed to reference the aforesaid guidance.

<sup>1</sup> REP17/CAC paras 35 – 43(i), Appendix III

<sup>2</sup> REP17/CAC para 84, Appendix VI

<sup>3</sup> REP17/CAC para 153(v)

<sup>4</sup> REP17/MAS para 27

<sup>5</sup> REP18/FL para 20

**MATTERS FOR ACTION****38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS38)<sup>6</sup>**

6. CCMAS38 did not endorse the sampling plans submitted by CCSC3 since the values in the table did not correspond to those recommended in the *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004). It was unclear whether the sampling plans provided were being applied to attributes or variable characteristics and requested CCSC3 reconsider the values in line with GXG 50-2004.

7. CCMAS38 agreed to inform CCSC3 that it would be providing commodity committees with a template for developing sampling plans in case the Committee would like to await developing sampling plans until such time CCMAS would provide the aforesaid template.

8. The Committee **is invited to take** note of the recommendations.

**50<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA50)**Guidance on the alignment of food additive provisions and alignment plan<sup>7</sup>

9. CCFA50 agreed to:

- i. publish the guidance document as an information document on the Codex website and inform the relevant committees for their reference; and
- ii. inform the relevant committees of the alignment plan of CCFA and specially request CCSC3 and other two committees consider prioritizing initial alignment of commodity standards within the scope of the committees in order to support CCFA planned GSFA alignment work in the course of the next two years.

Technological justification for the use of food additives<sup>8</sup>

10. CCFA50 requested guidance from CCSC3 on the technological justification for the use of anticaking agents in herbs on a general basis and these compounds and the appropriate use level specifically:

- i. Magnesium Stearate (INS 470(iii)) at GMP
- ii. Silicon dioxide amorphous (INS 551) at GMP

11. The Committee **is invited to consider** the requests.

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<sup>6</sup> REP17/MAS para 24

<sup>7</sup> REP18/FA, pars 48(vii), (viii) and Appendix XI

<sup>8</sup> REP18/FA para 86